

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following clarifying amendments:

1. (withdrawn) A site controller adapted to be used in an automated monitoring system configured for monitoring and controlling a plurality of remote devices via a host computer connected to a first communication network, the site controller configured for controlling communication with the host computer and a plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network associated with the plurality of remote devices, wherein the second communication network comprises a first communication device associated with a first remote device and a second communication device associated with a second remote device, the site controller comprising:
 - a transceiver configured to communicate with the plurality of communication devices via the second communication network;
 - a network interface device configured to communicate with the host computer via the first communication network;
 - logic configured to:
 - manage communication with each of the plurality of communication devices, via a first communication protocol, based on one or more communication paths for each of the plurality of communication devices and the identification of each of the plurality of communication devices in the one or more communication paths,
 - wherein each communication path comprising one or more communication devices involved in the communication link between the transceiver and each of the plurality of communication devices, and wherein the communication path for the second communication device comprises the first communication device;
 - manage communication with the host computer via a second communication protocol;
 - and
 - poll one or more of the remote devices according to a predetermined schedule by transmitting a status message to one or more remote device requesting current operating status of the remote device.

2. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the logic is software and further comprising a microcontroller for implementing the logic.
3. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of communication devices are wireless communication devices, the plurality of wireless communication devices being disposed throughout a geographic area such that the antenna patterns associated with the plurality of wireless communication devices overlap to create a coverage area that defines the second communication network.
4. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the first communication network is a wide area network and the second communication protocol comprises TCP/IP.
5. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the first communication protocol comprises a data packet, the data packet comprising:
 - a to address;
 - a from address; and
 - a command number comprising a function code.
6. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the network interface device is selected from the group consisting of a dial-up modem, an ISDN card, a DSL modem, and a LAN card.
7. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the logic is further configured to determine the one or more communication paths for each of the communication devices by receiving initialization commands from the plurality of communication devices.
8. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the logic configured to manage communication with each of the plurality of communication devices comprises one or more look-up tables residing in a memory.

9. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 5, wherein the data packet further comprises:
- a data field;
 - a checksum field;
 - a packet number field;
 - a packet length field;
 - a packet maximum field; and
 - a message number field.
10. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 1, wherein the logic is further configured to receive a first message generated by one of the plurality of communication devices via the second communication network, the first message comprising a first communication device identifier associated with the one of the plurality of communication devices associated with one of the plurality of remote devices that generated the first message and a predetermined function code corresponding to a data signal provided by the one of the plurality of remote devices associated with the one of the plurality of communication devices that generated the message.
11. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 10, wherein the logic is further configured to determine, based on the first communication device identifier, the one of the communication devices that generated the first data signal.
12. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 11, wherein the logic is further configured to translate the first message into a second message configured for transmission to the host computer via the first communication network.
13. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 11, wherein the first message further comprises a second communication identifier associated with an intermediate communication device corresponding to the current communication path through which the first message was received by the transceiver.

14. (withdrawn) The site controller of claim 13, wherein the logic is further configured to determine, based on the second communication device identifier, the intermediate communication device.

15. (currently amended) A method for controlling communication with a host computer connected to a first communication network and a plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network associated with a plurality of remote devices that are to be monitored and controlled by the host computer, the method comprising:

 sending a path determination message to a target communication device from a site controller **through the second communication network** prompting the target communication device to retransmit the path determination message to the site controller **through the second communication network**,

 generating a network map of the down-stream communication paths from the site controller to the target communication device and up-stream communication paths from the target communication device to the site controller from the unique addresses of the communication devices that retransmitted the path determination message from the site controller to the target communication device or from the target communication device to the site controller,

 based on the ~~[[the]]~~ network map, determining one or more up-stream and down-stream communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices;

 managing communication with each of the plurality of communication devices and the identification of each of the plurality of communication devices in the one or more communication paths, via a first communication protocol, based on one or more of the communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices; and

 managing communication with the host computer via a second communication protocol.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of communication devices are wireless communication devices, the plurality of wireless communication devices being disposed throughout a geographic area such that the antenna patterns associated with the plurality of wireless communication devices overlap to create a coverage area that defines the second communication network.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first communication network is a wide area network and the second communication protocol comprises TCP/IP.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising managing communication with each of the plurality of communication devices, via a first communication protocol, based on one or more of the communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices wherein the first communication protocol comprises a data packet, the data packet comprising:

- a to address;
- a from address; and
- a command number comprising a function code.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the data packet further comprises:

- a data field;
- a checksum field;
- a packet number field;
- a packet length field;
- a packet maximum field; and
- a message number field.

20. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving a request, via the first communication network, from the host computer for information related to one of the plurality of remote devices;

providing a command message to the second communication network for delivery to the one of the plurality of remote devices based on one of the communication paths associated with the communication device corresponding to the one of the plurality of remote devices.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving a response message, via the second communication network, that is generated by the communication device corresponding to the one of the plurality of remote devices, the response message comprising a

first communication device identifier associated with the communication device associated with the one of the plurality of remote devices and a predetermined function code corresponding to a data signal provided by the one of the plurality of remote devices associated with the communication device that generated the response message; and

determining, based on the first communication device identifier, the communication device that generated the first data signal.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, comprising providing the data signal to the first communication network for delivery to the host computer.

23. (currently amended) A site controller for controlling communication with a host computer connected to a first communication network and a plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network associated with a plurality of remote devices that are to be monitored and controlled by the host computer, wherein the second communication network comprises a first communication device associated with a first remote device and a second communication device associated with a second remote device, the site controller comprising:

a means for communicating with the plurality of communication devices via the second communication network;

a means for communicating with the host computer via the first communication network;

a means for polling the remote devices according to a predetermined schedule by transmitting a status message to one or more of the remote device requesting the remote device to transmit a message containing current operating status of the remote device;

a means for managing down-stream communication from the site controller to a communication device and up-stream communication from a communication device to a site controller based upon a network map comprising one or more of down-stream and up-stream communication paths between each communication device and the site controller; and

a means for managing communication with the host computer via a ~~[[second]]~~ communication protocol.

24. (previously presented) The site controller of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of communication devices are wireless communication devices, the plurality of wireless communication devices being disposed throughout a geographic area such that the antenna patterns associated with the plurality of wireless communication devices overlap to create a coverage area that defines the second communication network.

25. (original) The site controller of claim 23, wherein the first communication network is a wide area network and the second communication protocol comprises TCP/IP.

26. (currently amended) The site controller of claim 23, wherein the ~~[[first]]~~ communication protocol comprises a data packet, the data packet comprising:

- a means for identifying intended recipients;
- a means for identifying the sender;
- a means for indicating a command;
- a means for data transfer;
- a means for indicating potential error;
- a means for indicating a length of a packet;
- a means for indicating a total number of packets in a message;
- a means for identifying a message;
- a means for alerting the recipients to an incoming packet; and
- a means for indicating an end of a packet.

27. (previously presented) The site controller of claim 23, wherein the means for managing communication with each of the plurality of communication devices further comprises a means for determining the one or more communication paths for each of the communication devices by receiving initialization commands from the plurality of communication devices.